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MONTHLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1840.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 1840. The President in the chair. The record of the last meeting was read.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from Israel K. Tefft, Esq., of Savannah, who was elected Honorary Member at the October meeting; also, a letter from Samuel Hazard, Esq., of Philadelphia, signifying his intention to continue to forward his "Register," and accompanying a donation of Vols. I. to VI., inclusive, and Vols. X. and XI. of the "Register of Pennsylvania," to complete the set belonging to the Society.

Donations were communicated from the President, Robert C. Winthrop, Esq., and Rev. Drs. Cogswell and Palfrey.

Present — The President, Codman, Cogswell, Felt, Harris, Lewis, Mitchell, Pierce, Shattuck, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Feb. 27, 1840. The President in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Librarian officiated as Secretary *pro tempore*.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Rev. Joseph B. Felt, Alonzo Lewis, Esq., and the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia.

He also communicated a letter from H. M. McAllister, Esq., of Savannah, Georgia, acknowledging his election.

Present — The President, Bartlett, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Gibbs, Gray, Lewis, Mitchell, Shattuck, Sparks, and Worcester.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, March 26, 1840. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated a letter from Dr. Edward Jarvis, of the Kentucky Historical Society, acknowledging the receipt of the volumes of our Collections and sundry pamphlets; also,

Donations from Dr. Edward Jarvis, from the President of our Society, from the American Philosophical Society, Samuel Appleton, Esq., and Hon. James Savage.

The President also communicated information that the exchange had been completed with Mr. Hazard; and a letter from Mr. Henry Barnard, 2d, of Hartford, stating that the Connecticut Historical Society had been reorganized, and sending a copy of the Charter of Incorporation and By-Laws. .

Rev. Alvan Lamson was nominated for Resident Member, *vice* Hon. John Lowell, deceased.

Voted, That the services of Mr. Snelling be continued in the Library at the former rate of two dollars per week.

Voted, That the Rev. Dr. Greenwood be requested to prepare for

the next volume of the Collections of the Society a memoir of the late Hon. John Lowell, a member of the Society.*

Messrs. I. P. DAVIS and S. P. GARDNER were appointed a committee to examine and audit the Treasurer's accounts for the last year.

Present — The President, Bartlett, Cogswell, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Harris, Jenks, Mitchell, Pierce, Prescott, Quincy, Savage, Willard, R. C. Winthrop, and Young.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1840.

Thursday, April 30, 1840. The President in the chair. The record of the last meeting was read.

Donations were communicated by the Librarian from the President of the Society, Peter G. Stuyvesant, Professor Sparks, Mrs. Williams, Rev. Mr. Young, Mrs. Lowell, Dr. Elisha Thayer, the town of Wilton, New Hampshire, I. P. Davis, Esq., Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., and Rev. Mr. Colman.

He also read a communication from Rev. Dr. Jenks, stating that the family of the late Rev. Dr. Holmes offer his lectures on the Ecclesiastical History of New England to the Society, for publication in their Collections. This communication was committed to the Publishing Committee to report thereupon.†

* The Hon. John Lowell, elected in January, 1823, died March 12, 1840. Dr. Greenwood failed to perform the duty assigned to him. A memoir of Mr. Lowell by his grandson, the Hon. John Lowell, will be found in this volume, on pp. 160-169. — Eds.

† A quantity of miscellaneous papers of Dr. Holmes's was presented to the Society in April, 1875, by the Rev. Alexander McKenzie, pastor of the

The Librarian made a written statement concerning the limited sale of the Collections, and the injury to those now on hand from their situation in the attic. Whereupon,

Voted, That this subject be committed to Messrs. Savage, I. P. Davis, and Felt, with full authority to report thereupon.

Mr. Bancroft was allowed to take out from the Library Dunlap's "History of New York."

Rev. Dr. ALVAN LAMSON was unanimously chosen Resident Member, in the place of Hon. John Lowell, deceased.

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts made the following report, viz. : —

The undersigned, a Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society to examine the accounts of their Treasurer, Nahum Mitchell, for the past year, having this day performed the service, report that the accounts are well kept, properly vouched, and correctly cast, by which a balance of \$27.69 $\frac{3}{4}$ appears in favor of the Society.*

SAMUEL P. GARDNER, }
ISAAC P. DAVIS, } *Committee.*

BOSTON, April 30, 1840.

Shepard Congregational Society in Cambridge; and these, it is believed, contained some and perhaps all of the lectures mentioned in the records. The papers were referred to the Committee on the Proceedings, and they will soon be put in order for consultation. — Eds.

* The total receipts for the year were \$724. Of this sum \$124 were for admission fees and assessments; \$100 were borrowed of Nathan Appleton, on the Treasurer's note; and \$500, amount of the first note due on account of the purchase of the Franklin Place estate, as stated in the report of the Committee submitted at the meeting in June, 1839. The total payments for the year amounted to \$696.58 $\frac{1}{2}$, — of which sum \$522.15 were for printing; \$38.15 for taxes; \$52.50 for binding; and \$83.78 $\frac{1}{2}$ for assistance in the Library and for miscellaneous expenses. — Eds.

Mr. Savage declining to serve on the Committee on Dr. Harris's communication, Mr. GRAY was chosen in his place.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to subscribe in behalf of the Society the sum of twenty dollars, towards defraying the expense of paving in front of our building with wood.

Mr. GRAY presented to the Society a view of the old building, the oldest in Boston, taken by himself after the process of M. Daguerre. Whereupon,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Gray for his well delineated specimen of a new art.

The Society proceeded to choose officers for the ensuing year, and the following gentlemen were chosen :

THOMAS L. WINTHROP	PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH WILLARD	RECORDING SECRETARY.
CHARLES LOWELL	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
NAHUM MITCHELL	TREASURER.
THADDEUS M. HARRIS	LIBRARIAN.
ISAAC P. DAVIS	CABINET-KEEPER.
JAMES SAVAGE	} STANDING COMMITTEE.
CONVERS FRANCIS	
ALEXANDER YOUNG	
GEORGE TICKNOR	
SAMUEL P. GARDNER	

Present — The President, Appleton, Bancroft, Bartlett, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Gardner, Gray, Harris, Jenks, Lewis, Mitchell, Pierce, Quincy, Ripley, Savage, Shattuck, White, Willard, R. C. Winthrop, and Worcester.

JOSEPH WILLARD,
Recording Secretary.

[Two Resident Members died during the year, of whom no memoirs have hitherto appeared in the Society's volumes, — the Hon. William Sullivan and the Hon. John Lowell. They are here supplied. — Eds.]

Memoir of the Hon. William Sullivan.

William Sullivan (1774–1839), second son of Governor James Sullivan (1744–1808) and Hetty, daughter of William Odiorne, and grand-daughter paternally of Judge Odiorne, and maternally of Dr. Hugh Adams, of New Hampshire, was born in Biddeford, in Maine, Nov. 30, 1774. His father, after his appointment to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, in March, 1776, removed to Groton, and thence, in 1781, to a house on Bowdoin Square, in Boston, where, resigning his seat on the bench, he again resumed the practice of his profession.

William entered the Latin School in 1781, but fitted for college with Dr. Payson, of Chelsea, matriculating at Harvard in 1788. He graduated with its first honors in 1792. Judge Sullivan, then Attorney-General of the State, had lately erected a house on the corner of Hawley and Summer Streets, in Boston; and, in the office attached to it, William studied law. He was admitted to practice in 1795. Of an ardent temperament, sound sense, and indefatigable industry, he easily took a respectable position at the bar of Suffolk, then comparing favorably with any other in the land for ability, eloquence, and learning.

Soon after opening his office, Mr. Sullivan visited Philadelphia, then the Federal capital, where he made the acquaintance of distinguished personages in public life from all over the country, and also of many that were eminent, belonging to that city or who were leaders in its social circles. Six feet in height, of great constitutional vigor, fine proportions, and

graceful, his appearance was prepossessing ; and, with fine eyes, engaging manners, quick wit, and ready sympathy, cheerful and gay, he was everywhere kindly received. The acquaintances he then made, and in 1797 when he revisited the place, ripened into relations of a more permanent nature, and, in some instances, the friendships contracted at this period lasted through life.

In his more immediate neighborhood he was equally a favorite, yielding with due moderation to his taste for social intercourse, for which he was favorably placed, and in which, as may be inferred from what has been said, he was well fitted to shine. But, however great his fondness for society, he never allowed its indulgence to divert his thoughts from study or from attention to the claims of his clients. His marriage early to Sarah, daughter of Colonel James Swan, a lovely and most estimable woman, made success an imperative duty ; and his ability, good judgment, and integrity of character inspiring confidence, he gained many friends. He was constantly employed ; and, taking great pride and pleasure in his profession, he became one of its leading practitioners, and this, too, among formidable rivals. There was work for all. Troubled times fomented litigation, and questions were constantly arising, novel and delicate. His cases, involving interests of great magnitude, demanded the exercise of all his powers, and for their development were the best possible school. As an advocate he was prudent and sensible in the management of his causes, eloquent and persuasive in presenting them to the jury. The reports show the fulness of his learning and soundness of his reasoning. His argument in the "*Jeune Eugénie*," in 1821, has been cited to illustrate his mastery of the more subtle and difficult points of jurisprudence. He was, perhaps, a little too far removed from ostentation for the highest success. He shrank from display, and this feeling often chilled his ardor and crippled his strength.

Thus happily constituted by nature and circumstance, equally popular with the legal brotherhood and his fellow-citizens, with numerous friends devotedly attached to him, a large practice of great emolument for every want, he accepted his blessings with a grateful sense of that Providence from which they flowed. His gay and witty correspondence in the intervals of toil, the recollections of intimates who still speak of him with affectionate admiration, his wise and philosophic views of life and duty, thoughtful consideration for others, and freedom from any sordid or selfish aims, compel the conclusion that few lots were happier than his. If his labors were engrossing and attended with responsibility, pleasant intercourse ever at hand alleviated his anxieties and eased for the moment his burdens, and he returned to his tasks with renewed vigor. Others around him might be more distinguished or more affluent; but, avoiding the fatal mistake, to use an expression he occasionally employed in parental counsel, of comparing his condition with theirs, he was contented with his own, and certainly no one was more highly respected or better beloved.

For the first twenty years of his manhood, momentous events crowding the history of Europe agitated the world. Our commerce alternating between extraordinary profits and reverses as extreme, our seaboard cities seethed with political excitement. Governor Sullivan led the Republicans, who, grateful to France for the aid that brought about our independence, favored her policy, whilst the excesses of the Jacobins and despotic tendencies of Napoleon gave strength to the Federalists. William, from his conservative oration on the 4th of July, 1803, stood well with the latter party; and with the affluent merchants and able statesmen who made it respectable, though they were bitter and not very just to their opponents, he was in daily intercourse and on the pleasantest terms. His father, naturally distressed at his defection from his own political faith, and at the terms in

which exceptions had been taken to some of its leading principles in the oration, at first manifested his displeasure by a silence sufficiently expressive. When, however, William sought an interview, and gave his reasons for his course, the previously existing friendly relations were re-established, not again to be disturbed, each generously respecting in the other the right of judging for himself. They both were frequently called upon to avow publicly their political convictions, but alike were too well regulated to indulge in personal asperities.

The ability displayed in the oration, and the confidence reposed in his character, singled him out for political honors. In the House, Senate, and Council Chamber, to which, from 1804 to 1830, he was repeatedly elected, he was influential, and more than once declined the solicitation of his friends to be their candidate for Congress. In 1815, he went with Mr. Otis and Colonel Perkins as a delegate to Washington from the Legislature of Massachusetts, to remonstrate against the war measures of Mr. Madison; but, when they reached their destination, peace was already concluded. In 1821, chosen Speaker with a view to his proposed elevation to the supreme executive, obligations of a private and professional nature compelled him to resign the chair at a moment when universally popular. He was swept thus from the path which might have led to opportunities of usefulness on a wider field. He took too lively an interest in the national welfare not to have been glad to improve such opportunities. He was for many years in command of the Boston Brigade; and, with Judge Shaw, in 1820, prepared the municipal charter.

He had purchased, out of his professional earnings, the estate on School Street on or near the passage from the present City Hall to the Court House, and this he occupied many years for his office. There Mr. Powell Mason, afterwards reporter of the United States Circuit Court, was

his partner. Col. Aspinwall, our late Vice-President and Richard Kidder Randolph, nephew of John, of Roanoke, afterwards of Newport, Rhode Island, were among his students. There and at his residence, 15 Chestnut Street, the central one of three houses given by Mrs. Swan to her daughters, no moment, not due to social or domestic claims, was idle. Mrs. Sullivan was happily constituted, like himself, for genial intercourse. Their brothers and sisters had intermarried with families affluent, social, and widely connected, with Knox, Sargent, and Howard, with Russell, Winthrop, and Amory. Boston had been peculiarly prospered, opulence abounded, its prominent circles were refined and cultivated, and festal entertainments of constant occurrence. He belonged to the principal clubs, among them the celebrated Saturday Fish Club, with Otis, Perkins, and many other choice spirits of the day, and to many learned societies, that likewise met at times socially. His talented associates, interesting strangers from Europe or other parts of the country, were frequent guests at his table. His house was widely famed, not only for its generous hospitality, but for its brilliant intellectual entertainments, in which he took the lead, and to which his children, many of them peculiarly gifted, contributed their part. Certainly there never was a pleasanter home, a more accomplished host, one more ready or able to assume the whole responsibility for the happiness of the hour, or to put his guests at their ease, and bring out what was most agreeable in each.

Naturally eloquent and ready on the rostrum, in debate, or in his forensic efforts, agreeable and brilliant in conversation, he also wrote easily and well. His pen, indeed, was constantly at work. Piles of correspondence, gay or profound, political or philosophical, to judge by what remains, law papers of many descriptions, communications to the press on a variety of topics, heaped up his morning's work, his hand passing rapidly over his paper, hour after hour, unless when,

as frequently, interrupted by the visits of friends or strangers, clients for advice, or brother lawyers in consultation. His publications were numerous. Orations and lectures, his address in 1824 to the bar of Suffolk, of whose association he was for many years President, to the Pilgrim Society at Plymouth in 1829, to the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance in 1832, to the Mercantile Library Association, various pamphlets under his own name or anonymous, among the last several numbers of the "Puritan," constitute but a portion of his contributions in print to our pamphlet collections. In 1824, he published at Keene, New Hampshire, where his nephew, Russell, was settled as a clergyman, a brief history of the United States and of other countries, for use in schools and families. The decease of Mrs. Swan, in 1829, devolved a large inheritance upon her three daughters. After her death, Mr. Sullivan for the most part withdrew from his professional occupations, except where, as counsel of a few corporations or individuals, his knowledge of their affairs, or special concerns of his own, demanded his continued care. During his remaining years, he spent more of his time in his library at home, and devoted himself almost exclusively to pursuits of a literary nature, at work early and late, with a zeal which seriously impaired his health, and probably shortened his days.

Of the works he gave to the press during these last ten years of his life were several volumes requiring a wide range of patient research, and to this he appropriated more than half his twenty-four hours. His "Political Class Book," in 1831, presenting a comparative view of all systems of government, and giving a full account of our own, was translated into French and Italian, and passed through several editions. His "Moral Class Book," in 1833, reprinted in England, was pronounced by one of its ablest reviews the best manual of Moral Philosophy ever prepared for young minds. That same year he published his "Historical Class Book," em-

bracing the history of the world down to 476, the end of the Roman Empire in Italy. He also delivered a series of lectures on the Public Men of the Revolution, published at the time in a volume, and reprinted in 1847, with a memoir of him by his son John, a widely known humorist of unsurpassed versatility of genius. This work, pronounced by a good judge, Mr. Horace Binney, "as a book of greater research and more important historical facts relating to the times than any other he knew," is still in much request. In 1837, appeared his "Historical Causes and Effects," from 476 A.D. down to 1517, when the Reformation first assumed form. That year he published another book, entitled "Sea Life," for the benefit of mariners, in whose welfare he always took a lively interest, and to whose eloquent preacher, Father Taylor, who pronounced him, when he died, the prince of gentlemen, he was an attached friend. He himself contributed to the erection of their Bethel, to the extent of his power, persuading his wealthier friends to larger donations, which they could better afford.

Such a variety of subjects, treated exhaustively within this limited period, bears witness to the extent of his acquirements, his patient industry, and judicious and widely extended research. His manuscript volumes, prepared for the press, but not completed, in a chirography peculiarly elegant and clear, by their numerous notes and emendations exhibit his methods of work. What remains of the third volume of his history, which was intended to cover the period from 1517 to modern days, causes regret that he should not have lived to complete it. Among his papers are found other treatises and such lectures as he occasionally gave the students in his office, of an interest not all of them simply professional. His expositions of the development and operation of feudal institutions will be well remembered by whoever has read them.

The value of his productions, and the reasonable promise of more, from the learning and wise philosophic views they

displayed, attracted attention at home and abroad. As early as 1800 he had been elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and later he was connected with those of New York, Pennsylvania, and Georgia as Honorary or Corresponding Member. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the American Philosophical Society, and of the Academy of Letters, Sciences and Arts of the Valle Tiberina Toscana. Harvard College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws, and he was President of the Society for Promoting Theological Education and of numerous other societies and associations.

Whatever tended to develop trade and the public prosperity found in him a zealous advocate. If abuses demanded reform, with all due moderation he set himself to the task. In the cause of temperance he was among the most zealous, with more faith in persuasion than in legal restraints. His published works were principally designed to inculcate sound and sensible views of religion, morality, philosophy, and civil obligations. His efforts were untiring, as an early and leading member of the Bunker Hill Association, to rear an enduring monument of the principles it was designed to commemorate. Nor was he unmindful, when called upon to deliver the oration at Plymouth, of the steadfast faith and self-consecration which, transmitted to their descendants, rendered possible our political liberties. The influence exerted throughout a community by a few individuals familiar with its history, and thoroughly imbued with the genius of its institutions, cannot be too highly valued, as new generations rise up to be instructed, and strangers flood in for assimilation. His abundant opportunities thus to be of use rarely were passed unimproved.

Absorbed in these engrossing pursuits, his health gave way, and visits to Georgia to recover it in 1837, with his daughter to the Virginia Springs in 1838, and to Saratoga in 1839, proved of little avail. He bore his sufferings with

composure, entertained his friends with his ever cheerful conversation, and was about till within a fortnight of his death. He had come home from Saratoga early in August, when his strong frame finally yielded to maladies rooted in his system by his devoted assiduity to his work; and, on the 3d of September, 1839, he passed away. His remains were deposited in the tomb of his father, near the Athenæum windows, in the Granary Burial-Ground. His widow survived him until 1851. Of his ten children, the youngest died in childhood; the eldest, James, as he entered on professional life; William, Swan, and John are now dead. His daughters intermarried, — the eldest with Stuart Newton, the Royal Academician, and William F. Oakey, of New York; the second, with James Montfort Schley, of Georgia; the third with Hon. John Eliot Ward, our Minister to China under Buchanan; and the fourth with Dr. Crocker, of Providence, Rhode Island. Meredith, the only surviving son, resides in Philadelphia, and four sons of Swan and a daughter in Savannah, Georgia.

A fine portrait of William Sullivan, painted by Stuart Newton, R.A., his son-in-law, is in New York. In King's Chapel, which he attended, and where he was a constant communicant, is a marble tablet on the south wall, erected to his memory by his constant friend, George B. Emerson, jointly with his daughter, Mrs. Oakey, with a profile likeness taken from the portrait of Newton, and an inscription in Latin, part of which we translate. It conveys in concise and apt terms a delineation of his prominent traits. It describes him as "ingenuous, benignant, upright, well versed in affairs civil and military, an eminent lawyer and eloquent advocate, an intelligent and diligent observer of all that deserves to be remembered. Studious of whatever can make mankind more noble, more highly civilized, or truly happy. Amiable, dignified, and companionable, and never unmindful of the most humble of his friends or guests. This marble, that the con-

templation of his virtues may be lasting, was erected by his affectionate daughter and his attached friend, George B. Emerson," to whom so many of these eulogiums apply with equal truth.

Boston may well be proud of her children, when one, able, gifted, and useful as William Sullivan is almost forgotten in the crowd. Eloquent as an orator; vigorous and indefatigable with his pen; throughout his career untiring in his zeal for the best interests of the public around him, of his country and race; an honest politician, with no ambition for office; without pretension, and shrinking from display,—he may well be regarded as the model of what a good citizen should be under free institutions. Happily endowed by nature, many personal qualities which made him estimable were the result of self-culture and discipline, of well regulated principles and sense of religious responsibility.

Diffident of his own claims, he was too proud to covet honors or responsibilities which did not seek him, or when others were eager to assume them. He may have thus possibly lost chances of usefulness he would have on this account valued more than for any distinction they might have conferred. Independence of character often, however, commands that confidence apt to be withheld when sought, and he had abundant cause, throughout his career, to be grateful for the public and private trusts which fell to his lot. When called to any post of duty, he obeyed, where consistent with other obligations, without hesitation or regard to personal consequences, too glad to be permitted to be of service. Prudent in the management of his own affairs, and economical in his personal expenditures, he was generous to others. He paid large sums, and took upon himself heavy burdens to extricate them from embarrassments, even where the result of their own imprudence, and to his own great pecuniary disadvantage.

In all his private relations, as a devoted husband, affection-

ate parent, and steadfast friend, in fidelity to every claim and obligation, he was an eminent example of what human nature is susceptible in its highest development. His unaffected courtesy, unconscious dignity, and elegant simplicity of manners, are well remembered. His deference and consideration for others, and sacrifice of time and means, of his own advancement or enjoyment to promote theirs; his readiness to instruct or amuse, especially the young; his warmth of heart, generous judgment, and disposition to aid and befriend them in their need,—endeared him to all who came within his influence. That his charities had been without ostentation, was testified when he died by the numbers who had been relieved by him in their necessities who crowded to take their last view of his remains. We do not fear that we have said too much in his praise, but that our effort to recall him as he was may fall short of what justice to his memory demands.

T. C. A.

Memoir of the Hon. John Lowell.

John Lowell, the oldest of eight children of Judge John Lowell, was born at Newburyport, Oct. 6, 1769. He was fitted for college at Phillips Andover Academy, where he formed friendships which lasted his life,—among others, with Samuel Putnam, for many years an honored Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court, with whom he was afterwards connected by the marriage of their children. After Mr. Lowell's death, Judge Putnam wrote of him, as he appeared at school: "He was certainly among the best scholars. Upon occasional exhibitions, he was put forward to support the credit of the Academy, as exhibiting the best attainments in Greek and Latin. I must say that I do not recollect an individual who has impressed my mind and affections with such uniformity since the days of my boyhood. He was as frank, ardent, generous, and pure then as he has been ever

since you have known him." He was graduated at Harvard College, in 1786, at the age of seventeen ; having among his classmates several persons who were afterwards eminent, — among others, Isaac Parker, afterwards Chief Justice of Massachusetts.

Mr. Lowell was admitted to the bar before he had attained his majority, and entered almost at once into a full, successful, and lucrative practice. Although at that time the bar of Boston was less crowded than it has since become, there were men of the highest order of ability among its members, such as Theophilus Parsons, Samuel Dexter, Harrison Gray Otis, James Sullivan, and Christopher Gore. To have competed, as he did, with these men on equal terms is proof sufficient of his qualifications as an advocate. Only once has a greater array of talent been gathered at our bar, when, about thirty years ago, we could find upon its rolls the names of Daniel Webster, Jeremiah Mason, Rufus Choate, Peleg Sprague, Franklin Dexter, B. R. Curtis, Richard Fletcher, Charles Greeley Loring, and Sidney Bartlett.

The ardor with which Mr. Lowell threw himself into the causes entrusted to him has been described as greater than that of many of the clients themselves ; and, after fourteen years of practice, he found that a constitution, never very robust, had been seriously shaken, and he retired in 1803 ; and, after three years of travel and sojourn in Europe with his family, he returned to Boston, but never resumed the active practice of his profession. In 1817, he was persuaded by an old friend and client, Ward Nicholas Boylston, to make a journey to England, and try to forward Mr. Boylston's cause in a chancery suit, which was dragging its slow length along before Lord Eldon. To the surprise of those who were acquainted with the difficulty of the undertaking, he was fully successful. His professional life was closed some years before the publication of the first volume of the Massachusetts Reports, so that no permanent memorial re-

mains to connect even his name with the records of the profession. Tradition has preserved a general rumor of zeal and eloquence. One very famous case in which he was engaged was that of Jason Fairbanks, of Dedham, accused and convicted of the murder of a young lady of that town. The counsel for Fairbanks were Harrison Gray Otis and Mr. Lowell; and the junior counsel, at least, was fully convinced of the innocence of the prisoner, and is described as having endeavored to prove by argument and illustration that the girl might have inflicted upon herself the terrible wound in the back which was the cause of her death. Of the numerous causes of a civil nature which he argued, nothing is now remembered. It is apparent, however, from his writings, that he was thoroughly versed in several branches of the law, including what is now known as International Law, then called the Law of Nature and Nations. It is also plain, from the course of his life, that he must have been no less sound and prudent as an adviser, than zealous and eloquent as an advocate. Indeed, his counsel was sought by many friends, both rich and poor, and given with equal readiness to both, to nearly the end of his life.

Upon his return from Europe, in 1806, he entered with characteristic earnestness into the political controversies of the time, as one of the most federal of the Federalists. He was a writer of great spirit, eloquence, and acumen, and his many articles, published in the newspapers or in pamphlets, discussed the burning topics of that day—the embargo, non-intercourse Acts, seizure of the “Chesapeake,” the approaches of the war, and its justice and conduct—in a way which commanded the greatest attention and respect, and often affected the conduct of Massachusetts, and sometimes even gave pause to the Administration whom he opposed. His pamphlet on expatriation, the argument of which was pronounced by Chief Justice Marshall to be conclusive, was generally believed to have caused the Government to relin-

quish an act of retaliation which they had openly threatened in return for the execution of certain British sailors. These seamen had entered our naval service, and assumed to be or were naturalized American citizens, but were taken in arms against England. The theory of inalienable allegiance which this pamphlet and the Government of Great Britain acted on, and which our Government denied, authorized the execution. The retaliation was not carried into effect. It is well known that this question has been the subject of negotiation and treaty between the United States and some of the countries of Europe, even down to the time of Mr. Bancroft's late mission to Germany.

The Federalists were at this time very justly called the English party, and the Republicans, or Democrats, as they then began to be named, were with equal propriety called the French party. France and England both outraged the rights of this country as a neutral, and seized our ships, in defiance of law and justice. The Democrats resented most the spoliations of the English, and the Federalists those of the French. In looking back at those almost forgotten controversies, I think I can see that the Federalists had a fair share of the truth of history on their side. It was true, as they maintained, that the success of Napoleon, or Bonaparte, as they always called him, was more to be deprecated by us, as well as by the rest of the world, than that of his enemies, who simply stood on the defensive. All that the Federalists said of him was true, and will, in time, be generally admitted to have been so. It would be easy to quote passages from Mr. Lowell's pamphlets which anticipate many of the criticisms of Lanfrey. Since this able writer dispersed much of the Napoleonic myth, the French are beginning to speak of Bonaparte.

That the United States should have drifted into an alliance with Napoleon is not a subject for pride on our part. The Democrats insisted upon regarding him as the representative

of the democracy of Europe, which, to a certain extent, and against his will, he was ; and they overlooked in him conduct which they would not have forgiven to his rival. There were, too, more frequent occasions for collision with England. While, therefore, there was abundant excuse for war with either nation, the Democratic party and the force of circumstances determined that we should take the side which was soon to meet with deserved defeat.

But whatever of right may have been with the Federalists, they committed an error which no nation has ever forgiven, of opposing the war after it was actually declared. Of course, they met the fate which befell the English Whigs at the beginning of the century, and the Northern Democrats of our own time. The war was the end of the Federal party. A few of their leaders foresaw the result, and abandoned the party before it was too late. Mr. Lowell, who never would accept a political office, and cared only for what he considered true in principle, was not one of these.

The question how far the Federalists were prepared to go in their opposition to the war has been discussed, but is of little importance, as they never, in fact, did any thing. It appears from a letter of Mr. Lowell's, lately published, that he declined to take part in the Hartford Convention, because he truly anticipated that they would do nothing.

Mr. Lowell had no genius for intrigue, and it is certain that he was no party to any supposed plots or schemes for dividing the country. His whole mind on the subject was expressed with his usual frankness in a review of a political "Confession of Faith," published by Mr. Dexter, in 1814. "To accuse the Federalists of enmity against the Union is to accuse them of murdering the child of their bosom. . . . I ought, however, in frankness to state that many men believe that there are evils worse than disunion. I am one of those. I am not ashamed or afraid to avow my opinions." He goes on to say that oppression may be worse than disunion, but he

does not say that he expects or is actually prepared for the alternative. On the contrary, he declares: "We have no wish or idea of a separation of the States. We have only a desire that we should be as united in action as we are in suffering, so that we can speak a language that can be heard at Washington. . . . We are the true friends of union who would compel Congress, by our spirited and united language and conduct, to adhere to the principles in which the Union was founded. That Union which we cherish is not an empty name, under whose sanction such deeds of tyranny are to be committed, but a solid and substantial blessing, for which we surrendered a portion of the sovereignty of this free and independent State."

This story of a plot by the Federalists to divide the Union, and hand a part of it over to England, gained a certain currency at one time, chiefly through Mr. John Quincy Adams's public statement of his belief in it, made in 1828, when he was President. The recent publication of his very able and interesting defence of his position, written at the time, but given to the world only the other day,* effectually disposes of it; for he says he had no evidence of it, and, indeed (at p. 222), that he never supposed that more than two or three persons were engaged in it. The plot, if there were one, cannot have been very formidable.

After the war, Mr. Lowell never took any public part in the discussion of politics, and no one, says Mr. Everett, saw with more satisfaction than did Mr. Lowell the subsidence of party spirit which took place at that time.

About 1815, the Unitarian controversy sprang up, and Mr. Lowell contributed a very able pamphlet to its discussion. Some years later, when certain changes were proposed in the discipline of the Congregational churches, which would in-

* Documents relating to New England Federalism, edited by Henry Adams, 1877.

crease the powers of church members at the expense of those of the parishioners, he published three articles against this innovation or reaction. Mr. Greenwood, who was well fitted to pronounce, says of them: "He did not volunteer them, however, but was led and almost compelled to write them by the urgent representation of several of his friends of the clerical profession, who were persuaded that he was, of all men, the best qualified to do justice to the questions involved: and they were right. His services were no less than invaluable." The plan was abandoned. The only other writing of a controversial nature which Mr. Lowell published was a review, in 1824, of the memorial of many of the professors and tutors of Harvard College, who maintained and tried to convince the Overseers that the "Fellows" or governors of that institution ought, of right, to be chosen from the officers of instruction resident at Cambridge. Mr. Lowell's argument in reply to the memorial is not more remarkable for its logical force and historical accuracy than for the candor and temperance of its tone. Mr. William Wells, who corrected the proofs, wrote, when sending them back: "Every friend of the College ought to feel a warm gratitude to you for your exertions in this business." Then, after congratulating the author on the birth of a grandson, and quoting a line of Horace in reference to the transmission of certain qualities by descent, he says: "If so, this youngster is destined to support the liberties and defend the property of the next generation; to become the scourge of demagogues and the terror of quacks of every description." In this matter, also, the side espoused by Mr. Lowell prevailed. Mr. Lowell was not fond of controversy. His writings, though they reflect with great severity upon the public conduct of men in office, are wholly free from private malice or personal innuendo. He cultivated none of the arts of a wrangler; but dealt directly and forcibly with the subject in hand, disregarding side issues, and scorning irrelevant triumphs. In the case

which I have referred to, of the proposed change in the government of the College, he remained through life the warm friend of Mr. Everett, the author of the scheme which he had assisted to defeat. When the amiable and accomplished priest, afterwards bishop, Chevereux, published in the "Monthly Anthology" an article attacking the statements of one of Mr. Lowell's letters from Rome, which had appeared in that journal, the author of the letter refused to reply, because (as he wrote to the editor, Dr. Kirkland, in a private note) he had so much respect for his opponent and for the good work which he was doing among his people here, that he would not run the risk of diminishing his influence in the slightest degree, though he thought that his article could be very easily answered.

Mr. Lowell took an active part in founding or strengthening the principal charitable and literary institutions of his day in and near Boston. He was one of the founders of the Provident Institution for Savings, the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Boston Athenæum, the Life Office, and the Botanical Garden in Cambridge; and in these and all other enterprises which he joined, the ardor of his nature required him to give his whole mind and energy to the cause, and he acted as a natural leader, though without the slightest wish to be called so. He was for many years one of the Corporation of Harvard College, and afterwards one of its Overseers. He was Secretary, and afterwards President, of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and contributed very largely to its publications. The subjects which interested him more than law or politics or literature were agriculture and horticulture. When he was an active practising lawyer, he had a greenhouse attached to his house in Boston. After he inherited his father's country-seat at Roxbury, he lived there during more than half the year, and visited the greenhouse nearly every day of the whole year. He was active and constant in trying experiments and introducing improved meth-

ods and new seeds, trees, and cattle. Persons interested in these subjects would often come from distant places to examine the results of his labors or to see his rare exotics. Immediately after his death, Mr. Colman wrote in the "New England Farmer": "His communications on agricultural and rural subjects to the public, through the 'Massachusetts Repository,' the 'New England Farmer,' and other publications, were numerous and highly instructive, possessing not an ephemeral but a permanent value. His careful journals of the seasons and the progress of vegetation, continued for a series of years, have been annually looked for by the public with strong interest. He was eminently instrumental in introducing several new and useful articles of culture, and some of the most valuable fruits which are known in the vicinity of Boston, the seeds of which he always distributed in the most liberal manner. In seeking to elevate the character of the art, by improving the character and condition of the husbandman, and to lead the public to a higher estimation of agriculture as a liberal pursuit, no man has ever labored with more zeal and efficiency."

The life of Mr. Lowell which engrossed all that to him was of really great and vital interest was that which was passed in the enjoyment of the affections of his family and of his many personal friends. Mr. Everett says: "But it was only in social intercourse and the relations of private and domestic life that the beauty and worth of Mr. Lowell's character were fully displayed. He was animated by the loftiest sense of personal honor; his heart was the home of the kindest feelings; and, without a shade of selfishness, he considered wealth to be no otherwise valuable but as a powerful instrument of doing good. His liberality went to the extent of his means; and, where they stopped, he exercised an almost unlimited control over the means of others. It was difficult to resist the contagion of his enthusiasm, for it was the enthusiasm of a strong, cultivated, and practical

mind. He possessed colloquial powers of the highest order, and a flow of unstudied eloquence never surpassed, and rarely, as with him, united with the command of an accurate, elegant, and logical pen. It was impossible for him to enter into a social circle, however intelligent, which he was not able unconsciously and without forethought to hold in willing attention by the charms of his conversation. He had a deep sense of the truths and hopes of the Christian faith, and never alluded to them, nor countenanced an allusion, but with that gravity and seriousness which belong to the highest interest of man." As a neighbor, he was always ready with unpurchased counsel and aid to compose the strifes or explain the rights and duties of his poorer fellow-townsmen.

The anecdote was told of him that, when he had become very unpopular by his opposition to the war, and a rumor gained currency that his house in Roxbury was to be attacked by a mob, he refused a guard offered by his Boston friends, because he would not believe that his fellow-townsmen were capable of such an act. This confidence was well founded; for, though the citizens of Roxbury, of both parties, offered him a similar protection, which he likewise declined, no mob made its appearance.

As life declined, Mr. Lowell withdrew more and more, first from his public engagements, and afterwards from all extended intercourse of society, and passed the last years in the large and happy home circle, which it is not our privilege to enter. He died suddenly and peacefully, in his chair, March 11, 1840, being a few months more than seventy years old.

J. L.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, May 28, 1840. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the Secretary of State of the United States, Rev. Dr. Cogswell, Rev. Dr. Palfrey, Theron Metcalf, Esq., S. Appleton, Esq., Dr. Stevens, David Eckley, Esq., Elisha Thayer, Esq., the Directors of the Prison Discipline Society, Hon. Edward Everett, Peter Force, Esq., Rev. Dr. Parkman, and Lemuel Shattuck, Esq.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated letters of acceptance from President Swain, of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Louisville, Kentucky.

MESSRS. HARRIS, FELT, and DAVIS were appointed a committee to make out as many complete sets of the Collections as may be practicable.

The Society received from Samuel A. Eliot, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, an invitation to attend, at the church of Rev. Mr. Young, in Summer Street, on Thursday next, June 4, at 4 P.M., the delivery of a eulogy on the late Rev. Dr. Kirkland, a former member of this Society, by Rev. Dr. Palfrey.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on the subject appointed at the last meeting, reported a recommendation that the volumes of Collections now in the attic, or so many of them as may be practicable, be removed to the second floor, to the recess in the outer room, and that a partition for this purpose be made across the recess.

Voted, To accept the foregoing report, and that the same Committee be requested to carry the same into effect.

Present — The President, Appleton, Austin, Bartlett, Cogswell, I. P. Davis, Felt, Gibbs, Gray, Greenleaf, Harris, Homer, Lewis, Mitchell, Savage, Shattuck, White, and Willard.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, June 25, 1840. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Rev. Mr. Ripley, requesting to be excused from preparing a memoir of the late Dr. Bradford, on account of ill health. Whereupon,

Voted, To excuse him, and that the Rev. Dr. Francis be requested to prepare the memoir.*

The Librarian communicated donations from the Legislature of Massachusetts, Rev. Messrs. Lunt and Young, Rev. Dr. Boyle, Hon. Messrs. William Minot, James Savage, and Nahum Mitchell, Lemuel Shattuck, Esq., and the Georgia Historical Society.

The Cabinet-Keeper was requested to make search for the pen, said to belong to the Society, with which Governor Hancock subscribed his name to the Declaration of Independence.

* See note † on p. 141, *ante*. — EDS.

Voted, That Rev. Robert Folger Wallcut be requested to prepare for the Society's Collections a memoir of the late Thomas Wallcut.*

Dr. William B. Stevens, of Savannah, Georgia, was nominated for Corresponding Member by Rev. Dr. Harris; Colonel George Bumford, of the Ordinance Department, by Hon. James Savage.

Messrs. GRAY, YOUNG, and R. C. WINTHROP were appointed a Committee on Lectures for the ensuing season, to be delivered under the sanction of the Society, with full power to engage lecturers for the course and to make all the necessary arrangements.

Voted, That Rev. Mr. Young be requested to prepare for the Collections a memoir of the late Rev. Dr. Kirkland.†

The Standing Committee nominated Nathaniel Morton Davis, Esq., of Plymouth, for Resident Member, *vice* Thomas Wallcut, Esq., deceased.

Present — The President, Codman, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Gibbs, Harris, Jenks, Lewis, Mitchell, Pierce, Savage, Shattuck, Ticknor, White, Willard, and Young.

* A memoir of Mr. Thomas Wallcut, one of the founders of the Society, who died June 5, 1840, prepared by the Rev. Robert F. Wallcut, will be found on pp. 193-208. — Eds.

† No memoir of Dr. Kirkland, agreeably to this vote, was published in the Collections. Dr. Kirkland had resigned his membership some years before. — Eds.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, July 30, 1840. The President in the chair.

In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr. SHATTUCK was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated donations from Dr. Edward Jarvis, I. P. Davis, F. M. Hubbard, Caleb Cushing, the American Historical Society, and M. Henri Ternaux.

Accompanying the valuable donation of Mr. Hubbard, a letter was received from him, requesting the privilege of the further use of the Library, which was granted on the same terms as before.*

A communication was read from Rev. Dr. Harris, relative to the duties performed by him as Corresponding Secretary *ad interim*; † also, from M. Friederichsthal,

* Mr. Hubbard's gift was a copy of Ackerman's "History of the Public Schools of England"; London, 1816. — Eds.

† The following is Dr. Harris's communication referred to: —

"JULY 18, 1840.

"JOSEPH WILLARD, Esq., Recording Secretary of the
Massachusetts Historical Society.

"DEAR SIR, — Being about making a visit of a few weeks in the State of Maine, I shall, of course, be absent at the next meeting of the Society; but, through you, would respectfully state that, by the return of the Rev. Dr. Lowell, my appointment to the office of Corresponding Secretary *ad interim* having ceased, I have delivered to him the seal, and informed him where the file of letters received in his absence, and the copies of my answers, are deposited. Permit me to say that I have aimed to discharge this office promptly, and in such a manner as to sustain its credit in the view of the foreign societies to whom letters were to be addressed, as also to give the many individuals who sought information the most satisfactory answers in my power.

"I congratulate the Society on the fitting up an apartment for the reception of the Collections of the Society. As these numerous volumes were brought down from the attic, I arranged them in due order on the shelves. In the same room a considerable number of the bound newspapers have been placed. But

attaché of the Austrian Embassy, offering his services to the Society in the collection of documents relating to Austria. Whereupon,

Voted, That this communication be placed in the hands of the Publishing Committee.

M. Friederichsthal was nominated for Corresponding Member.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from John Disney, Esq., accepting his election as Corresponding Member.

The Cabinet-Keeper reported that the only record as to the pen referred to at the last meeting was the following: viz., "April 26, 1796. The identical pen with which Congress subscribed the Act of Confederation in 1778. Mrs. Blodgett, of Virginia." *

I must acknowledge that I had become so weary in the protracted labor, from mounting up steps to pile books aloft, and stooping down to place ponderous volumes, that I was obliged to quit before I had got all the latter in exact chronological location. This acknowledgment applies, also, in part, to the Congressional documents.

"With much regard, your old friend,

T. M. HARRIS."

Dr. Harris was very scrupulous and exact in the performance of his duties as Corresponding Secretary *ad interim*, preserving copies of the letters written by him during that period, which were not few. The Corresponding Secretary's official seal, to which he refers, and of which a representation is given below, has of late years been laid aside. See *ante*, p. 61. — Eds.

Seal of the Corresponding Secretary.



* See Proceedings, Vol. I. p. 98. — Eds.

The Cabinet-Keeper also reported that a manuscript belonging to the Society, relating to the north-eastern boundary, was missing, being the manuscript account of Proceedings of the Commissioners for settling the River St. Croix, by Hon. Egbert Benson. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Librarian write to the several members of the Society and ascertain in whose possession it may be.

Mr. YOUNG, from the Committee for procuring lectures, reported in part.

Mr. Gray was, on his own request, excused from serving on the Committee. Mr. SAVAGE was appointed in his place, and was subsequently excused. Rev. Dr. LOWELL was then appointed to fill the vacancy.

Rev. Mr. Young was excused from serving on the Committee, and Mr. WILLARD was chosen in his place.

Mr. DAVIS stated to the meeting that the records show that the Athenæum has on loan a copy of the "Remembrancer" belonging to the Society.* This copy being a duplicate, it was

Voted, To offer it to the Athenæum; and, if not purchased by that Institution, to make sale of it to some individual.

Voted; That Mr. Davis be authorized to rent the room in the attic to the Natural History Society.

WILLIAM B. STEVENS, D.D., and Colonel GEORGE BUMFORD were elected Corresponding Members.

NATHANIEL M. DAVIS, Esq., of Plymouth, was elected a Resident Member.

Mr. I. P. DAVIS presented to the Society a picture of General Washington crossing the Delaware, on condi-

* See Proceedings, Vol. I. p. 282. — Eds.

tion that the Society would have the same suitably repaired. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Society accept the donation on the proposed condition, and that Mr. Davis be requested to have it repaired at the expense of the Society.

Present — The President, Bartlett, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Gardner, Jenks, Lowell, Mitchell, Pierce, Savage, Shattuck, White, R. C. Winthrop, Worcester, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1840. The President in the chair. The record of the last meeting was read.

Le Chevalier FRIEDERICHSTHAL was elected Corresponding Member.

Donations were communicated by the Librarian from Messrs. Peter Force, Henry Davenport, W. W. Davenport, Alonzo Lewis, Benjamin Guild, Thomas Powers, Daniel Appleton White, J. Q. Adams, James Savage, John Vaughan, Theodore S. Bell, W. W. Campbell, and Rev. Dr. Cogswell; also, he communicated a letter from Mr. Friederichsthal, accompanying a donation of a volume upon Serbia; also, a donation from Obadiah Rich, of an early map of New England.

Mr. Willard was excused, on his own request, from serving on the Committee on Lectures, and Mr. SHATTUCK was chosen in his stead.

Voted, That the Corresponding Secretary be requested to write to Governor Cass, at Paris, to obtain the volume of annual statistics pub-

lished by the French government, for the use of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Present — The President, Adams, Austin, Bartlett, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Francis, Gray, Harris, Jenks, Lowell, Mitchell, Ripley, Savage, Shattuck, Tucker, White, and Willard ; and Rev. Jasper Adams and George Folsom, Esq., Corresponding Members.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1840. The President in the chair. The record of the last meeting was read.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from William B. Stevens, M.D., of Savannah, accepting his election as Corresponding Member ; also, from Col. Bumford, accepting his election as Corresponding Member ; also, a letter from Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Louisville.

The Librarian communicated donations from Dr. Edward Jarvis, Nathaniel Willis, Esq., John Warren, Esq., American Philosophical Society, Rev. A. B. Chapin, Dr. J. V. C. Smith, and Rev. Dr. Cogswell.

The President nominated for Corresponding Member Hon. Joel Parker, LL.D., Chief Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire, and President of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Rev. Dr. Lowell nominated for Corresponding Member Rev. John Lee, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.A.S., of Edinburgh, and Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

Voted, That the Publishing Committee be directed to proceed and publish forthwith Vol. VIII., third series, of the Collections.

Mr. DAVIS communicated a request from Theodore Dwight, Esq., for the use of the Trumbull manuscripts in the Society's Library, in preparing a life of the late Governor Trumbull.

Voted, To refer this subject to Dr. Harris, Mr. Savage, and Judge Davis.

Mr. Greenleaf nominated Henry Black, Esq., of Quebec, for Corresponding Member.

Present — The President, Appleton, Codman, Cogswell, I. P. Davis, Francis, Gibbs, Greenleaf, Harris, Jenks, Lewis, Lowell, Pierce, Quincy, Shattuck, Willard, Worcester, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Oct. 29, 1840. The President in the chair.

In the absence of Mr. Willard, Mr. TICKNOR was appointed Recording Secretary *pro tem*.

The record of the last meeting was read.

A letter was communicated by the President from Hon. Edward Everett, Paris, Sept. 3, 1840, respecting an imperfect copy of the Collections of the Society in the Library of the Louvre, and respecting a copy of Raynouard's "Troubadours," six volumes, 8vo, supposed to have been sent from the same Library to this Society.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. SAVAGE,

Voted, That the letter be referred to the Librarian and Corresponding Secretary, with directions to complete the set in the Louvre, as far as the volumes in the possession of the Society will permit, and respectfully to inform the official head of the Louvre Library that Raynouard's "Troubadours" have never been received by this Society, and that the only communication received by this Society from the Louvre Library was dated March 3, 1818, and was answered July 28, 1818.

The Corresponding Secretary presented sundry autograph letters from Dr. Mayhew, Harrison Gray, Rev. Andrew Eliot, S. Mayhew,* Edmund Quincy, and Edward Holyoke, with copies of answers to them by T. Hollis, — all from our Corresponding Member, John Disney, Esq., of London. Whereupon, it was

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given by the Corresponding Secretary to Mr. Disney for his valuable and curious donation.

The Corresponding Secretary presented from M. Ombrosi, of Florence, "Dissertazione intorno ai Viaggi e Scoperte Settentrionali di Niccolò ed Antonio Fratelli Zeni. . . . Venezia, 1808." Whereupon,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to M. Ombrosi for this donation.

The Librarian announced the donation of sundry curious and valuable books and tracts relating to American history. Whereupon,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given in the usual form.

Mr. Henry J. Abell, Dr. Jarvis, and Rev. Dr. Lowell made donations, which were communicated by the Librarian.

* S. Mather (?). — Eds.

A discussion arose as to the lost manuscripts of the Hon. Egbert Benson, being an account of the proceedings of Commissioners for settling the River St. Croix; and, it being suggested that it might probably be in the Department of State, and in the Diplomatic Bureau, of which W. S. Derrick, Esq., has charge, with other books and property of the Society, —

Voted, That the whole subject be referred to the Hon. J. Q. Adams, J. Savage, and I. P. Davis, to act for the interests of the Society as they may deem expedient, and to reclaim any other books, manuscripts, papers, or property of the Society that may be found at Washington, whether lent by the Society at the time of the discussion of the question of our North-Eastern Boundary, under the reference to the King of Holland, or otherwise.

HENRY BLACK, Esq., of Quebec, Lower Canada, Hon. JOEL PARKER, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire, and Rev. JOHN LEE, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.A.S., Edinburgh, were severally elected Corresponding Members of the Society.

Voted, That Dr. Lowell be requested to obtain a translation for the Society of the work on the Voyage of the Zenos, this day presented by him to the Society.*

Dr. LOWELL, from the Committee on Lectures, reported that the Committee had not as yet succeeded in making arrangements for a course of lectures this year. Whereupon,

Voted, That the same Committee have charge of the subject of lectures for 1841-42, as well as for the present year.

* For a translation of the Zeno narrative, first published in Italian, in Venice, in 1558, see the publication of the Hakluyt Society of London, for 1874, entitled "The Voyages of the Venetian Brothers, Niccolò and Antonio Zeno," &c., translated and edited by Richard Henry Major, F.S.A. A *résumé* of this paper, prepared by the author by special request, may be found in the Proceedings for October, 1874. — Eds.

Voted, That the Librarian be requested to report at the next meeting a list of all such books as should be kept permanently in the Library, and not lent out.

Dr. Harris was excused from service on the Committee on the Trumbull manuscripts, and Mr. TICKNOR was chosen in his place.

The next stated meeting falling on the day of annual Thanksgiving, —

Voted, That it be held on the Wednesday preceding, at twelve o'clock M.

Present — The President, Appleton, Bartlett, Cogswell, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Greenleaf, Harris, Lowell, Mitchell, Pierce, Savage, Ticknor, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1840. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from M. Jomard, of Paris, Dr. J. Smyth Rogers, Adam Winthrop, Rev. Drs. Lowell, Palfrey, and Cogswell, and Messrs. Francis Jackson, J. E. Worcester, and Alden Bradford.

Dr. HARRIS, from the Committee on the subject of books not to be taken out from the Library, reported that he had not completed the list, and asked for further time, which was allowed.

Mr. Savage nominated Hon. Thomas Day, of Hartford, Connecticut, for Corresponding Member.

The Librarian was authorized to put in proper repair the volumes of our Collections that are to be sent to the Society of the Louvre, pursuant to the vote of the last meeting.

The Librarian and Mr. YOUNG were appointed a committee on Mr. Willard's proposition for an exchange of some books for a set of the Society's Collections.*

Present—The President, Bartlett, Cogswell, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Gardner, Gray, Harris, Jenks, Lowell, Mitchell, Shattuck, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Dec. 31, 1840. In the absence of the President, Mr. SAVAGE was called to the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from President Quincy, Hon. Levi Woodbury, William H. Prescott, John Vaughan, I. P. Davis, and John P. Bigelow, Esq.; also, a donation from Sir John Caldwell, of thirty-eight volumes, folio, of the Legislative Documents of Lower Canada. Whereupon,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Sir John Caldwell for his large and munificent donation.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to reimburse to Mr. I. P. Davis the sum paid by him as freight for the books presented by Sir John Caldwell.

* Mr. Joseph Coolidge, chosen a member in April, 1811, died Nov. 19, 1840. A memoir of him by Mr. R. C. Winthrop will be found in this volume on pp. 209, 210.—EDS.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter of acceptance from John Winthrop, Esq., of New Orleans.

Dr. HARRIS, from the Committee on the subject, reported verbally recommending an acceptance of Mr. Willard's proposition made at the last meeting. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Librarian deliver to Mr. Willard a set of the Society's Collections, in exchange for Berry's "Sussex and Kent Genealogies," two volumes, folio, and the coats-of-arms of Kentish families, as engraved around Dr. Harris's map of Kent, placed before his "History of Kent."

Hon. THOMAS DAY was elected a Corresponding Member.

The Librarian, pursuant to a vote at the last October meeting, reported a list of books, &c., that should not be taken from the Library, which report was accepted, and the Librarian was directed to mark such books, &c., accordingly. The following is the list: —

Dictionaries, Gazetteers, Catalogues of Libraries, Register of First Settlers, by Farmer, Thayer's Family Memorial, Judge Mitchell's History of Bridgewater, Kennet's American Library, Rich's Bibliotheca Americana, volumes of the Society's Collections specially bound for the Society, files of Newspapers and such as are bound, Maps and Plans, all Manuscripts, except by special vote of the Society, and the books of the Old South Library.

Present — Austin, Cogswell, I. P. Davis, Felt, Gibbs, Gray, Greenwood, Harris, Lincoln, Lowell, Mitchell, Pierce, Quincy, Ripley, Savage, Shattuck, Willard, Worcester, and Young.